



United States Department of State  
Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations

# Department of State Atrocity Prevention Training



President Obama established atrocity prevention as a core national security interest and announced a comprehensive strategy to prepare the U.S. government to prioritize and coordinate atrocity prevention efforts. Given the Department of State's global presence, State personnel are building specialized knowledge and skills to help the U.S. government act early and decisively to prevent mass atrocities.

The Department of State offers multiple training opportunities to ensure personnel can assess and respond to atrocity risk:

- *Policy Priorities in Multilateral Diplomacy: The Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities:*  
This two-day course improves awareness of early warning indicators, available tools, and current efforts to promote human rights and democratic values. Students develop skills to pursue U.S. objectives and understand the role of key national and international actors.
- *Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) Atrocity Prevention Training:*  
CSO's training builds on the basic concepts presented in the USAID module. Students are introduced to early warning and global scanning tools, atrocity-specific analysis, and approaches to atrocity prevention strategy.
- *United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Preventing Mass Atrocities and Genocide: Introduction to Key Concepts and U.S. government Policy and Tools:*  
Department of State personnel have access to this 45-minute online module that familiarizes students with key atrocity prevention concepts and risk factors/warning signs. It also introduces students to U.S. government policy on mass atrocities and available tools and approaches to prevent mass atrocities.

## CSO TRAINING STATISTICS:

Five Iterations to date

85 students trained

Participation from seven members of the Stabilization Leaders Forum including Australia, Denmark, Canada, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

Additional training opportunities offered at the Department of State's Foreign Service Institute, that include atrocity prevention:

- *Promoting Human Rights and Democracy*: This five-day course promotes awareness of the objectives and activities of the U.S. government, international organizations, and NGOs in promoting human rights and democratic values. The course includes a half-day atrocity prevention simulation.
- *Senior Executive Threshold Seminar*: This two-week leadership training for senior personnel includes two half-day modules focused on atrocity prevention. The half day tour and simulation, developed in partnership with the Holocaust Museum, help students see how effective values-based leadership, interagency communication, and collaboration can be used to avoid future atrocities.
- *Diplomacy at High Threat Posts*: This course teaches skills that help personnel meet U.S. foreign policy goals while working in difficult environments. It includes a module on the importance of analyzing mass atrocity possibilities in high-risk posts.
- *Area Studies Courses*: Courses provide expertise into specific regional areas. Several courses include a discussion on atrocity prevention as it relates to historical examples or contemporary events.

## EXTERNAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

- *United States Institute of Peace/Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation Interagency Course on Atrocity Prevention*: This interagency course covers foundational concepts in addition to early warning, risk assessment, and the psychology of perpetrators. Students learn about the stages of prevention and ways to prevent and mitigate violence throughout this cycle. This course is limited to U.S. government personnel and geared towards personnel supporting atrocity prevention efforts.
- *U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum*: The Holocaust Museum offers a variety of courses in atrocity prevention related topics such as law, justice, religious studies, and training for Department of Defense officers on genocide prevention. Courses are geared toward law professionals, law enforcement personnel, professors, and military officers.
- *Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights*: The Montreal Institute hosts an annual three-day training program covering topics of importance. The program is geared toward mid and senior level practitioners in government, think tanks, NGOs, etc.
- *Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities*: The Budapest Center offers a three-day workshop for European countries to build prevention related skills. The workshop is geared toward staff in ministries of defense, foreign affairs, justice, and intelligence services, as well as researchers and civil society.
- *The Stanley Foundation*: The Stanley Foundation offers a one-week Latin American Network Training Seminar on mass atrocity prevention. The seminar is geared toward Latin American atrocity prevention focal points and government officials from the human rights and foreign affairs ministries